May 29, 1975

Dr. James B. Rhoads
Archivist of the United States
National Archives & Records Service
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Rhoads:

While many months ago I noticed the disappearance of your signature from all correspondence to me and have no objection to it, I feel I must address this letter to you in order that there not be any misunderstanding, one that might be misinterpreted as a complaint against Mr. Marion Johnson. This is not a complaint against him.

It is nearing the end of the second week since the last request I made for the communications between the FBI and the Warren Commission dealing with the spectrographic and neutron-activation testing. On the last occasion I explained to Mr. Johnson the reasons for the request and the need for court purposes.

From shortly after the filing of my C.A. 226-75 months ago, I have been trying to get these communications on the FBI's representation that the proper and necessary way is to obtain them from you. I do not agree, but I am anxious to eliminate all problems possible. My counsel, Mr. Jim Lesar, made this request a long time ago. When there was no response, I repeated it to Mr. Johnson, asking that to the degree possible he identify those the FBI told me they had discussed with the Archives.

Supposedly, these communications include some of what I am suing for and the government, through the Department of Justice, assures the court it will deliver. With the FBI steadfastly refusing to give me copies of what is <u>not</u> withheld, I have no choice but to ask Archives, which I have done repeatedly.

I had hoped that these days of whipsawing me were over. I would like to be able to hope that, insofar as the Archives is concerned, you would be willing to see to this. If there is some reasonable explanation for this excessive delay, particularly over a matter that is currently before a federal court, I would appreciate knowing, what it can be.

I am in all of this reminded about your hundred days of delay in responding to my 1968 request for the so-called Memorandum of Transfer and then years of stonewalling beginning with an immateriality. Now that you have disgorged this - in 1975 - there is no apparent reason for its ever having been withheld except for political purposes. Identically the same is true of those suppressed executive session transcripts.

In fact, the plain and simple truth is that over all these many years, all those countless pages you withheld from me and then let me have includes no single one I can recall that was properly denied me. Identically the same is true of those other agencies included in my FOIA suits as it is of all that I was given at the last moment prior to suit after long suppression.

Were this matter not now before the courts and were it not my desire to be certain that I have and understand whatever it is that the FBI refuses to give me (although it is the agency of origin of all that was given to the Warren Commission and on their representation you have no need to withhold any of it), I might be willing to tolerate this old-time stonewalling a little longer.

However, it seems to me to represent a policy rather than an operating decision. There is no apparent need or proper reason for the exceptionally long delay. Therefore, I believe I owe it to both of us and to the court to address you personally.

I do hope you will give this your prompt personal attention and will issue whatever directives may be necessary to end this clear violation of the intent of the Congress and of the law.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

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